

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 09253 250924Z
ACTION MCT-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 EB-08 L-03 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7916
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 9253

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, EAIR, GW, MY
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION AT BONN
SUMMIT

REF: A) STATE 186923 B) STATE 212172 C) KUALA LUMPUR 9169

1. I MADE PARALLEL APPROACH TO MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA
AUGUST 25. I URGED THAT THE GOM GIVE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO THE
BONN SUMMIT ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION AND THAT IT ALSO FORMALLY
INDICATE ITS SUPPORT BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO SUMMIT GOVERNMENTS.
I ALSO ASKED FOR THE GOM'S CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS RATIFYING
THE HAGUE CONVENTION AND ACCEDING TO THE MONTREAL AND TOKYO
CONVENTIONS, INDICATING OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GOM HAD NO
POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO THESE CONVENTIONS AND WAS ONLY AWAITING
COMPLETION OF TECHNICAL STUDIES OF THE MATTER IN THE MINISTRY
OF COMMUNICATIONS (NOW TRANSPORT).

2. ZAKARIA CONFIRMED HIS STATEMENT TO FRG AMBASSADOR RITTER
(REF C) THAT THE GOM SUPPORTED ALL MEASURES AGAINST HIJACKINGS.
ZAKARIA WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE BONN DECLARATION WENT BEYOND
THE THREE CONVENTIONS IN THAT IT ADVOCATED SANCTIONS AGAINST
COUNTRIES NOT COOPERATING IN HIJACKING INCIDENTS. HE SAID
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE THE MATTER CAREFUL CONSIDERA-
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TION IN LIGHT OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE BONN SUMMIT
GOVERNMENTS OBVIOUSLY ATTACH TO THE MATTER. I SAID THAT
I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BONN SUMMIT GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE MEETING
AGAIN AT THE EXPERT LEVEL WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, AND THAT WE
WOULD WELCOME A GOM RESPONSE BEFORE SUCH A MEETING TOOK
PLACE.

3. ZAKARIA SAID THAT THE FRG AMBASSADOR HAD INDICATED THAT A GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE BONN DECLARATION DID NOT NECESSARILY COMMIT THAT GOVERNMENT ITSELF TO TAKE THE ACTION CALLED FOR IN THE DECLARATION. HE ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION AS WELL. (COMMENT: RITTER DID NOT RAISE THIS POINT WITH ME IN CONSULTING BEFORE HIS OWN APPROACH TO ZAKARIA, AND AS INDICATED IN REF C, THE GUIDANCE IN REF B ARRIVED AFTER RITTER'S APPROACH.) I SAID THAT THE GOM AS A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY FREE TO DETERMINE WHAT ITS PUBLIC DECLARATION OF SUPPORT MEANT IN TERMS OF ITS OWN OBLIGATIONS. IT WAS MY PERSONAL VIEW THAT IN ANY CASE THE BONN SUMMIT GOVERNMENTS WOULD WELCOME AS BROAD AS POSSIBLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE BONN DECLARATION. ZAKARIA WELCOMED THIS "CLARIFICATION".

4. REGARDING THE GOM'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE THREE CONVENTIONS, ZAKARIA CONFIRMED THAT MFA HAD RECOMMENDED RATIFICATION AND ACCESSION TO THE THREE CONVENTIONS, CONSISTENT WITH ITS POLICY OF SUPPORTING MEASURES AGAINST HIJACKING. AS A RESULT OF THE FRG'S AND OUR DEMARCHES, AND THE OBVIOUS URGENCY WE ATTACH TO THE MATTER, MFA WOULD PRESS THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT FOR AN EARLY COMPLETION OF ITS TECHNICAL STUDY. I TOLD ZAKARIA THAT I HAD BEEN CONSIDERING CALLING ON THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ON THIS MATTER BUT NOW WOULD HOLD OFF DOING SO FOR AT LEAST THE TIME BEING.

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5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE GOM MAY MAKE A GENERALIZED PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE BONN DECLARATION. HOWEVER, IT MAY DECIDE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT BY SIMPLY MOVING TO RATIFY AND TO ACCEDE TO ANY OR ALL OF THE THREE CONVENTIONS. HOPEFULLY, AT LEAST, OUR JOINT DEMARCHES WILL SPUR THE LATTER PROCESS.
MILLER

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